

REMARKS***Introduction***

Receipt of the Office Action mailed September 20, 2006 is acknowledged. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 23 is allowed, and claims 8-11, 17 and 20-22 are allowable.

In response, applicants have amended the application as shown above. Specifically, applicants have incorporated elements of the allowable claims into the base claims and cancelled certain claims, and amended the specification and drawings pursuant to the suggestions of by the Examiner, as detailed below. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration are earnestly solicited.

Formal Matters

In response to the objection to the specification, the phrase "FIG. 2a" of the phrase "FIG. 1d is an enlarged, partial view of FIG. 2a" in "DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING" section has been changed to "FIG. 1c".

FIGS. 1a-2 were objected and in response, applicants have amended these drawings to indicate that they are reflective of the prior art.

The objection to Claims 20-22 has been rendered moot by their cancellation.

It is thus respectfully all objections to the specification and drawings have been overcome.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-7, 12-16 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Shimizu et al (US Patent No. 6,614,627). Solely in order to expedite prosecution and obtain speedy allowance of the instant application, without acquiescing to the assertions in the

Office Action, applicants have amended claims 1, 12 and 18, incorporating elements of the allowable claims, and cancelling Claims 7, 8, 16, 17 and 20-22.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims amended are free of the prior art and are otherwise in condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 11-0553, under Order No. 2902246.4 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By /Kening Li/

Susan E. Shaw McBee

Registration No. 39,294

Kening Li, Ph.D.

Registration No. 44,872

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, & Berkowitz, P.C.

555 11th Street, NW, 6th Floor

Washington, DC 20004

Direct: 202.508.3450

Fax: 202.220.2250

Attorneys for Applicant